

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)
E CURSE OF THE
IDOL'S EYES;
ROMANCE OF MODERN
LONDON.
A. ST. JOHN ADCOCK.
or "BEYOND AROMANCE," "THE
CURSE OF MISTRESS FLEET," ETC.

CHAPTER VIII.
SIMPLY AND LOVEMAKING.
was past seven o'clock when
he went up the stairs of No. 17,
within 'emselves.

the office of Mr. Gaston Retcliffe,
on the second floor, and he had
been several times on the door and
attempted to open it, when he
had to move away, he looked
in, and now a sharp wanseened face,
lost in a ragged bush of hair and
tears, watching him intently from
the banisters.

"Mr. Retcliffe gone, sir?" Matthew
had asked.

"Mr. Retcliffe has gone," replied
watcher, withdrawing his face,
immediately appearing round the
corner in his entirety. "What
you want him for?"

He was a small dry man; his coat
and he carried a broom in his
hand.

"I want to see him privately," re-
plied Matthew. "I will call in the
morning."

"You'll excuse me, young feller,"
the other, skipping to the head
of the stairs and barring the way
with his broom, "but it would be
satisfactory to me if, before you
you come."

"That's Mr. Retcliffe's business,"
Matthew indignantly.

"Matthew, to him in the morn-
ing."

"I dareay. But I'm going to be
more particular in future that I hev
you come. This office closes at 5.30; so
I'd got business here you ought to
know that. Nobody calls at solicitors
this time of night an' expects
anybody, unless it's something
social and by appointment. And
when her happened lately in con-
nection with this office as hev done
carater no good, but the diametric-
revers, and has soured me against
an' made me mistrust
of everything an' everybody, my-
self included. See what I mean?"

"Well," hesitated Matthew, "I
don't know who you are—"

"And I don't know who you are.
That's the trouble. I'm the house-
oper in this place, an' my name's
Hagg. There's no mystery about me;
I'm a plain an' aboveboard, an'
I'm goin' to keep there. Now, if
I'll be plain an' above board as well,
we shall understand each other."

"If you must know," said Matthew,
"sitting there could be no indiscretion
communicating so much to this
official, my name is Fielding, and I
know about the robbery that took
place here last night."

"Oh, my gracious alive!" ejaculated
Matthew. "How did you know there
was one?"

Matthew mentioned that he had
read of it in the evening paper, and
producing his written copy of the
report offered it for inspection.

"You saw it, did you? Good
Columbus! won't he be mad in the
morning! I tried to quiet him by
saying no one would notice it. He
saw it himself, Mr. Retcliffe did, be-
fore he went home this evening, and
had me down about it," said Mr.
Hagg. "You see, my son does short-
hand, and reports now and then for
the papers, and when I told him this
morning about the robbery here he
says at once, 'That'll make capital
copy.' I never objected. Why should
it? I was the truth—the whole
truth. I am not," he remarked
gravely, as fearing Matthew might be
under misapprehension in that
particular, "I am not a liar. That re-
porter, sir, which I regard as a sound
specimen of English, is written, I may
say, in the very words I used myself in
giving it to my son, and to my know-
ledge, it has appeared this evening in
two papers. When he saw it, Mr.
Retcliffe had me down. 'This is some
of your doings,' he says, savage like. I
didn't understand him at first.
'What's wrong with it, sir?' says I, a
bit huffed. 'It's good English.
They've printed a G upside down, but
that's no fault o' my son; he wrote it
right way up. I'll go bail.' He
bristled up. 'You needn't try to be
funny,' says he. 'It's all rubbish.
You've no right to do it. You know
nothin' at all about it; mind your
own business. You'll put the thief on
the alert with your infernal gabble,
an' now we shall never catch him at
all."

"There may be something in that,"
suggested Matthew.

"Not a bit. This is his real reason:
he's as good as said so. As Mr. Byrne
—that's his managing clerk—is evi-
dently the thief, it will shake people's
confidence in him an' maybe damage
his practice if the facts are made too
public. I'm sorry you're coming in
the morning. It'll mean another
beano for me."

"What time will he be here?" en-
quired Matthew.

"You'd better come about eleven,
and take your chance," said Mr.
Hagg, adding, as he slowly followed
Matthew down the stairs, "What do
you know about this robbery, if there's
no harm in asking?"

"I don't know whether I ought to
mention it. I think perhaps I had
better not say anything about it till
I have told Mr. Retcliffe."

"Please yourself," Mr. Hagg as-
sumed an air of utter indifference.
"I'm about tired of it all myself. I
get no benefit out of it, that's all I
know. I shan't tell him you called
to-night. He'll be savage when he
knows you noticed that report. You
can see him and do all the explana-
tion yourself; I'd rather keep out of
it."

Matthew thanked him, and, wish-
ing him good-night, was glad to get
away without having been betrayed
into any confidences of importance.

Coming out at the lower end of St.
Swithin's-lane within a stone's throw
of Mr. Croddles' shop—perhaps not so
much because he remembered he had
been invited by that gentleman to call
again as that he also remembered his
all too feeble vision of that pretty
face, and the sympathetic eyes that
had looked down upon him last night
from the lofty desk—he yielded with-
out a struggle to the impulse that
steered him in that direction.

A guilty self-consciousness that came
upon him as he entered would not
allow him to raise his eyes to the desk.
He went straight to the counter and
questioned Mr. Weevle again through
the avenue of scuttles and hand saws.

"Mr. Croddles, sir?" Mr. Weevle
responded enigmatically. "Well, he
is in, and he is not in."

"Could I see him, do you think?"

"He is dreadfully busy just at pre-
sent."

"Perhaps I had better call to-mor-
row."

"Mr. Weevle reflected.

"I don't know," he began. "It's
particular."

"Mr. Weevle, I believe papa said he
wanted to see the gentleman."

It was the voice from the desk, and
Matthew thrilled to the sound, and
felt his flushed cheeks grow suddenly
warmer.

"Did he, miss? Oh! I didn't hear
him say that. Let me see, sir—Mr.
Fielding, isn't it?"

"Yes."

Mr. Weevle dashed off down the
shop, and disappeared into the back
parlour, while Matthew stood striv-
ing against a sensation of embarrass-
ment which was not lessened at all,
when he ventured to throw a swift
glance up at the desk, and was dazled
by the light of a pair of dark eyes
that were observing him with evident
interest.

He was relieved when Mr. Weevle
sprang out of the parlour and hailed
him with an exaggerated assumption
of deference, that was at once resent-
ful and defiant. Matthew was puzzled
and amused by it; he went forward
into the parlour, and Mr. Weevle
slammed the door on him violently, as
if he had trapped him, and meant
never to let him out any more.

It was a little room, substantially
furnished, and warmed and lighted
by a shaded lamp and a cheerful fire.

A few articles of trade had drifted into
it from the shop, and lay round by the
walls. A leather-topped table occu-
pied the centre of the floor, and Mr.
Croddles sat behind it, his features
somewhat clouded, a pen in his inky
fingers, and a litter of papers all about
him.

"Sit down, Mr. Fielding," he cried,
despairingly. "Bring a chair up and
sit down."

Matthew did so, as the old
gentleman seemed waiting for him to
speak he presently commenced.

"You were good enough to say I
might look in."

"Yes, I know," Mr. Croddles in-
terrupted, running his fingers through
his hair distractedly. "I haven't
heard of anything, but—Oh, I don't
know! Who's Weevle? Why should
I be here much longer; so, what does it
matter?"

"Now, don't aggravate me, Weevle;
I'm a good boy, and he can't put up with it; I should go
drifting on again."

"I'm a good boy, and was impatient to be gone;
but Mr. Weevle would not let him go."

"Do you eat much fish?" he in-
quired earnestly.

"Not much," said Matthew, a little
startled.

Mr. Weevle appeared to be dis-
appointed.

"I've been told," he observed, "that
all literary men eat fish. There's
phosphorus in it, and that's very nour-
ishing for the brain. I eat a great deal
myself. I have written poems about
her; I've got a drawer full of them.
She has never seen them; but I wrote
last night what I believe to be my
finest effort, sir. When I know for
certain that there is somebody else, I
shall leave it on her desk one night
and go away before any one is up next
morning and emigrate. I shall, sir,
I have that effusion with me, Mr.
Fielding, and if you can spare another
five minutes, I could wish you to
favour me with your critical opinion
on it."

"You know what I mean, sir. I
shall be leaving on Saturday week."

"Will you? Oh!" exclaimed the old
gentleman, stamping his foot. "Then
you'll do nothing of the kind."

Mr. Weevle came, very erect and
stony.

"Mr. Weevle, take a week's notice,"
cried the old gentleman abruptly.

"Anything will suit me, sir," Mr.
Weevle declared with invincible re-
signation. "Don't drop it on my ac-
count."

It was impossible by any coaxing to
raise his mind from this attitude of
studied humility; and, having de-
finitely explained the details of the
arrangement to him and received no
response other than a long-drawn
sigh, Mr. Croddles bade Matthew an
abrupt good-night and assured him
that he had never met such a scath-
ing person as Mr. Weevle in all his
life—and that, for him, he
wished he was in his grave, and that
the great work on nails could be di-
talled back into the ink-bottle and
forgotten.

"Anything will suit me, sir," Mr.
Weevle declared with invincible re-
signation. "Don't drop it on my ac-
count."

"Very good, sir," said Mr. Weevle
recklessly. "From any day you like," blustered
Mr. Croddles. "Don't give me any
more of your impudence, sir."

Mr. Weevle smiled scornfully and
withdrew.

"That's settled him! Perhaps I
shall be able to breathe now," said
Mr. Croddles, returning gloomily to
his seat. "He's been here ever since
he was a boy; he's worked his way up
as a become manager; I'm dashed
sick of him; he's more his
shop than mine. Not but what he
ain't a clever enough manager; I give
him a free hand, but when he wants
to manage me as well as my business
I draw the line."

Matthew murmured something to
the effect that he was sorry to be the
cause of any unpleasantness, but the
old gentleman stopped him.

"Nothing of the kind," he said.
"It's bin Weevle all through. He
writes poetry, you know. I can't
write poetry, an' don't want to. He
can't write prose, and he's jealous be-
cause I can. As soon as I told him I
was going to write a book he offered
to help me, and I didn't like to hurt
his feelings by refusing. An' we've
been doing nothing but row and argue
over it since. He wants to what
he calls the idealism, the subject, and
I won't; I will stick to the facts. If I
hadn't let him help me, I'd have had
it all finished months ago. I don't
want anybody to write the book;
that's what he's always trying to do.
I just want some one to go over it and
correct the spelling and put the grammar
straight. D'you think you could
do that?"

Matthew felt sure he could.

"I don't want any poetry or senti-
ment introduced; I don't want you to
make with the facts at all. I don't
want it talked about for fear anybody
should snatch up the idea and get
a book out before me on the same sub-
ject, as I rely upon your keeping it
entirely to yourself."

Matthew promised that he would do
so.

"Strictly between us, then, I am
engaged upon work in connection
with nails."

"Nails?" echoed Matthew, for want
of anything else to say.

"Yes. It is a subject of vast inter-
est, and one about which most people
are shockingly ignorant. For example—

—What was the origin of tin-tacks?
who invented them, and how are they
made?"

Matthew shook his head hopelessly.

"You don't know," cried Mr. Croddles.
"Who invented brads? When

we're French nails first introduced?

"I tell you! It's all mystery and
darkness, and I've set myself to clear
it up. But I must have competent as-
sistance. My daughter, Amy, doesn't
care to take it up; besides, she's got
more than enough to do with keeping

our books. Weevle's no good. Why,
gave," cried Mr. Weevle frankly.

only yesterday he wanted me to start
a chapter on brass-headed nails with
five verses of poetry he'd written
especially for it. Poetry in a technical,
instructive work like this! It's
absurd—it's frivolous."

Matthew acquiesced.

"We wasted hours arguing and row-
ing about it; but there! thank good-
ness I've done with him."

Mr. Weevle put his pen in his
mouth and proceeded to reduce the
little about him to something re-
simpler order.

"I don't offer you regular work,"
Mr. Weevle continued. "I have loved
her for years. I was beginning to hope
her springs eternal in the human
breast—

Matthew thought to the sound, and
felt his flushed cheeks grow suddenly
warmer.

"Did he, miss? Oh! I didn't hear
him say that. Let me see, sir—Mr.
Fielding, isn't it?"

"Yes."

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shop, and disappeared into the back
parlour, while Matthew stood striv-
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walls. A leather-topped table occu-
pied the centre of the floor, and Mr.
Croddles sat behind it, his features
somewhat clouded, a pen in his inky
fingers, and a litter of papers all about
him.

"I say you still continue mine as sort
of overtime, eh?" said Mr. Croddles.

"I don't know," he began. "It's
particular."

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wanted to see the gentleman."

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ACK ALLROUND.

WHICH SOUP.—To make a good soup two ox-tails to 3 quarts of water. Separate the tails at all the joints, which must be cold; add 2 carrots, 2 onions, 1 turnip, half a head of celery, a parsnip, and a bayleaf. When the soup has come to the boil add the vegetables by degrees, along with 6 to 8 paper corns, and for boiling, a few drops of prepared sugar. Let the soup simmer gently for 4 or 5 hours, then strain and serve. Allow it to get cold, and then add it to the rest of the soup. If it is not all the pieces will boil except the largest, boil up, and skim off all dross as it comes.

CUT UP 3 carrots, 2 onions, 1 turnip, half a head of celery, a parsnip, and a bayleaf. When the soup has come to the boil add the vegetables by degrees, along with 6 to 8 paper corns, and for boiling, a few drops of prepared sugar. Let the soup simmer gently for 4 or 5 hours, then strain and serve. Allow it to get cold, and then add it to the rest of the soup. If it is not all the pieces will boil except the largest, boil up, and skim off all dross as it comes.

VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

The annual general meeting of the City of London Rifle Association will be held at the headquarters of the London Rifle Brigade on Friday, the 28th. The 13th anniversary of the Association will be celebrated on the 28th, and the expenditure to 6140 will be used to bring the balance in hand being now £6 17s. 10d. Both the treasurer and secretary announce their resignation, and as the whole council retire on the 28th there will be plenty to do at the meeting. The N.R.A. bronze medal was won by Pte. Stilton, L.R.B., the N.R.A. bronze medal by Pte. J. E. J. L.R.B., and the club championship gold, silver, and Little respectively.

The rifle ranges at Wormwood Scrubs remain for the day, and the ranges made enabling firing to be carried out with safety. This is a great boon to metropolitan corps, as the preliminary firing can be carried out so near London, saving time and expense to both men and commanding officers.

The home district rifle meeting will be held at Brixton on Saturday, May 8, when, as usual, the "Daily Telegraph" Cup for marching and shooting will be the most interesting event. For this a 10-guinea cup is offered, together with a prize amounting to £270, and medals to the captain and sergeant of the winning team; 10 battalions in the home district can each send one team, viz. 6 battalions of the Guards, the H.A.C., and the 43 Volunteer corps (infantry). The Lee-Metford will be used by all competitors, the distance to be travelled being 11 miles from Brixton to the "Daily Telegraph" and 2 miles is allowed for the march. All teams are allowed to practise this route, but none are to practise the attack at the 20th boll, Brixton. Maj.-gen. Lord Matheson gives a 5-guinea cup for individual competition, and the sum of £200 is offered in 50 prizes. Competition will be open to all men who can enter. There will also be a pool at 300 guineas, and the copper bit will be valued at £10 each. Lieut.-col. E. G. Lloyd, V.D., and the members of the Stock Exchange have subscribed handsomely to the money added, and Col. R. W. Inglis, V.D., presents the medal. Entries must be made to Capt. J. G. Mayall, D.M., Horse Guards, Whitehall, or be sent to March 20.

COOKING COCOA NIBS.—There is no difficulty in preparing excellent breakfast cocoa from the nibs if only a proper amount of time is bestowed on the boiling and proper care to prevent it coming to the actual boil, for if the cocoa is allowed to boil it soon forms a stubborn craggy mass, which cannot be dissolved in water. I am very pleased to see a Working man to his favourite breakfast beverage, the more so as a number of people consider the cocoa from the nibs to be more wholesome than the more easily prepared varieties, which are often less or less unwholesomely adulterated. The method to pursue is—according to the quantity required put in the nibs to your boiling pot, and pour boiling water upon them, and then allow the mass to simmer for 4 to 6 hours, never permitting it to boil. I said before, to come to the actual boiling stage. The boiling can be done the day before, and the straining result should be put in a clean covered dish, and will only have to be heated up for breakfast.

WARNING BLACK LACE.—Mix some buckwheat gall with sufficient hot water to make it as warm as you can just bear your hand in, then put it in the lace, and draw it up and down through the water; do not rub it, but squeeze it now and again to get rid of the dirt; this and drawing it carefully through the water will suffice. I should advise you to add a little musk to perfume the not pleasant smell of the gall. When cleansed, rinse the lace, and then prepare a stiffening by pouring some boiling water on a very small piece of gauze. The stiffening should be made very weak. Put in the lace, squeeze it out, clasp it between your hands to dispense the stiffening, stretch it carefully, and pin it out evenly on a lined cloth to dry, laying it down very straight and taking great care to put out the edge properly. When dry, iron on the wrong side, having first laid a smooth linen cloth on the ironing blanket.

PIG'S HEAD BROWN.—Well salt the head, tongue, ears, and feet of a pig, boil them all very gently together for a long time until you find the bones will easily slip out of the meat. When this occurs the boiling is sufficient. Take care that even the smallest bone is picked from the meat, which is to be cut up into pieces of about an inch and a half or 2 inches square. Have ready 2 tablespoonsfuls of salt, 2 teaspoonsfuls of pepper, a little cayenne, and 6 pounds of ground clover, or any other mixture of spices and herbs you may prefer. Roll each piece of meat in the mixed spices and herbs, and pack them one by one tightly in a cylinder of tin with two covers fitting loosely inside. When all the meat is put on the top cover, and press it down with a heavy weight for 24 hours. After that it will be ready to turn out.

COLOURING BILLIARD BALLS.—An anonymous correspondent, in reply to a recent request, sends me the following as "the correct recipe." Get a piece of red cloth, same as a soldier's waist, cut a bit off this large enough to cover the ball, and then stitch it close over the ball. If it is not stitched close it will leave a white line or mark on the ball. Then boil it in a pot of water.

WHITE CHOCOLATE.—An anonymous correspondent, in reply to a recent request, sends me the following as "the correct recipe." Get a piece of red cloth, same as a soldier's waist, cut a bit off this large enough to cover the ball, and then stitch it close over the ball. If it is not stitched close it will leave a white line or mark on the ball. Then boil it in a pot of water.

CHOCOLATE.—Boil 10lb. of chocolate in 3 gallons of water. When boiled turn out to cool, reserving 1 quart, into which put the thin-pared rind of 4 large lemons. Also add to the quart of reserved liquor 1oz. of well-boiled ginger, and 1oz. of mace. Boil this for half an hour, and strain.

CHOCOLATE.—Boil 10lb. of chocolate in 3 gallons of water. When boiled turn out to cool, reserving 1 quart, into which put the thin-pared rind of 4 large lemons. Also add to the quart of reserved liquor 1oz. of well-boiled ginger, and 1oz. of mace. Boil this for half an hour, and strain.

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THE THEATRES.

PRINCE OF WALES'S. Eminently tuneful and amusing is the new piece now played in front of "A Pierrot's Life." It is an opera-bouffe of the old Italian school—of the days before the strenuous melodies and elaborate orchestration of a Mascagni—for the once famous Ferrandino Faer wrote at a time when tunes were rather tinkling, and when everything florid was the special prerogative of the voice. However, his "Il Maestro di Cappella," for which an Italian libretto was adapted from the French of Sophie Gay, and is now given in the guise of an English paraphe by Peter Pilkerton, is a very bright and lively little piece. What is more, it is capitally presented by singers who possess just that touch-and-go style of acting, necessary in light opera of this kind, a style of which Miss Pauline Joran proves herself quite unexpectedly to be the happy possessor. She appears as the cook to an old and enthusiastic musician of the last century, who has composed an opera on that fascinating subject, "Cleopatra." The master is luckily in the possession of a servant who can sing, and she is made to combine the duties of the kitchen with the pleasing task of singing the old fellow's elaborate melodies, but Gertrude also finds time to play many a practical joke on the composer, and his timorous nephew, one Benetto. Miss Joran, as the cook and prima donna, acts with much vivacity and spirit, and with all necessary awkwardness when enacting the rôle of the great Egyptian queen. Her duets with the old composer, a part well played by Signor Maggi, are immensely diverting, and her singing is excellent. Signor Maggi's interpretation of the aged maestro, who dreams of future glory for self and opera at La Scala, is delightfully quaint. His soliloquy, imagining the triumphs of his first performance, was a very clever effort, but the MS. he carried revealed to the audience the title of a very modern composition, nothing less than "The Blue Bird Echo Polka." The property man should rectify this obvious absurdity. Crowded audiences are still drawn by the play without words.

BEHIND THE SCENES. Miss Elizabeth Robins has arranged to produce at the Court Theatre, by subscription, for the 5 afternoons from the 22nd to the 26th inst., inclusive the Anglicisation of the Spanish dramatist Echarazu's play, "Marines," in the cast of which will be found Messrs. Hermann Vezin, H. B. Irving, J. Welch, E. O'Neill, M. Harvey, and G. Bancroft, with the Misses E. Robins, Keegan Sutcliffe, and Hackney. The celebrated German actor, F. Mitterwurzer has died suddenly—poisoned, it is said, by a mouthwash. Sir Henry Irving has completely recovered from the accident to his knee as to enable him to resume his assumption of Richard III. in Shakespeare's play—the performance of which, broken off after the first week, will accordingly be proceeded with on Saturday, Feb. 27. Two plays, founded on novels, lately produced in New York, have proved dire failures—"The Scarlet Letter," the "Mighty," and Dr. Claudine."

Mr. J. Huntley McCarthy has just completed a comedy called "Panisms," with the leading female character specially considered for his wife, Miss Clancy Loftus, who will appear in the piece at a West-end theatre. The same prolific author is also at work upon another drama, to be entitled "The Pretender." Mr. Bancroft has just finished his series of readings of Dickens' "Christmas Carol," the last of which was given on Tuesday at Stamford House in aid of the Chelsea Hospital for Women. No less a sum than £3,000 has been realized for public charities by Mr. Bancroft, who has promised to give a second series in the same good cause next winter. Sardou's play, entitled "Springtime," treating of tableaux, and analogous phantasies, is proving, despite the acting of Mlle. Bernhardt, unattractive to the audiences of the Renaissance Theatre, where a new play, bearing the curious British title of "Snobs," is already in rehearsal. Miss Vera Beringer has been playing since last Wednesday night at the heroine in "A Free Pardon," at the Olympic as understudy to her sister Ema, who has unfortunately been invalidated. "A Free Pardon" comes off before March 8, when the Olympic passes into the hands of Mr. R. Buchanan, Mr. Haddon Chambers is adapting for the stage a novel of Miss Marie Corelli's treating of the incarnation of souls. The piece will take form as a romantic play named "Zicks." Mr. Arthur Collins, having become lessee for a long period of Drury Lane, is linking himself as managing director with a syndicate forming a limited liability company, who will be responsible for the entertainments of the national theatre. "The Sorrows of Satan" has fun its comparatively brief course, and will come to an end next Saturday. Miss Corelli's play will be followed at the Shaftesbury by the long promised and often postponed Armenian opera, rehearsals of which have been started.

THE LONDON. It is one thing to witness good entertainment and another to find a hall where you can do so with real comfort. Now comfort is the distinguishing feature of the seating arrangements at the London, and it is a feature so rarely associated with places of amusement that we feel justified in calling attention to and congratulating Mr. E. S. Barnes on the fact. The scheme of amusement is also good, and of the ladies Jessie Albinis must be singled out.

LORD SALISBURY AND THE TROOPS. Lord Salisbury has caused the following congratulatory cablegram to be dispatched to Sir G. Goldie: "My hearty congratulations to you all concerned in the expedition. The arrangements which brought about the defeat of the Foulahs and capture of Bida appear to have been admirably devised and brilliantly executed."

GYMKHANA MEETING OUTSIDE BIDA. The first gymkhana meeting ever held in the Nigerian Soudan took place at Bida outside the north-west gate, and proved most successful. Thousands of spectators were present, and large fields entered for all seven events.

DISTRESSING HEADACHES. Arising from biliousness, indigestion, and disorders of the stomach, and pleasantly dispelled by the aromatic and original CALIFORNIA SYRUP OF IRON. Whilst acting soothingly and gently upon the liver, kidneys, and bowels, it is at the same time so agreeable to the palate that phisics enjoy it and take it with permanent benefit. An ideal family medicine. Manufactured only by the California Fig Syrup Company. Every package of the genuine bears their name and trade mark. (Advt.)

OUR LOCAL THEATRES.

A new version of the nautical drama, "True Blue," is due at the Stratford Theatre and Opera House to-morrow. "In Sight of St. Paul's," Mr. George Conquest informs us, is due at the Surrey tomorrow night. Miss Agnes Hewitt is about to produce at the new Brixton theatre a new play by Mr. Soudamore, called "The Destroying Angel," in which will be seen yet another embodiment of the devil. This week, at Brixton South London, will be the first opportunity of witnessing that most popular play, "A Night Out." The special matinee will be given on Wednesday for the Indian Famine Fund. "It's Never Too Late to Mingle" will be the attraction at the Elephant and Castle, Mr. H. J. Glyndre and Miss Maid having numbered in a strong cast.

The last 2 weeks of "Cinderella" are announced below. Prior engagements alone necessitate the termination of the successful run. "Cinderella" is in her last week at the New Pavilion, a revival of "Tommy Atkins" being due on March 1.

Other fixtures are: Parkhurst, "Jedburgh Junior"; Metropole, "Betsey"; West London, "East Lynne"; Lyric (Hammerstein), "Lights of London"; and Novelty, "Wrecked in London."

GRAND. Having long been associated with some of the finest ballets seen in London, it is only right that Mr. A. Mori should maintain the traditions of the hall over which he presides. That he is not up to the fanciful and picturesque production, "The Tragiques," which with the dainty music of M. Jacob, so cleverly suggestive of Hungarian music, with its haunting melodies and fascinating rhythm, and a company of splendid dancers and pantomimists, continues the attraction at the Alhambra, and will hold the stage until Sir A. Sullivan's ballet of the Victorian era is ready for production. But the programme is not ready. The variety element is a considerable one, and in that element several changes have just been made. The additions include Kelly and Ashley, American acrobatic grotesques, with an unusually new form of entertainment; Maya and Hunter, whose ability as banjo players will be gathered from the fact that one of them renders the overture to "William Tell"; Magie, Vanda Sylva, who, in the garb of a Hungarian girl, plays the violin with all the charm and panache of the Magyar gipsy; the Franks, those excellent gymnasts, Vera, Payne, comeliest of comedienne, and ladies artists, the Fredericks, and the Waldens, most graceful of bicycle and trick riders. One of the most popular numbers in the programme is the Animatograph, and the best picture the breaking of the sea in a cave. One could actually see the crash of water—at least as suggested by the orchestral accompaniment.

CONCERTS OF THE WEEK. Among the most talented of the several musical families who now provide exciting chamber concerts are the Walenns, who have just given the fourth of a series of well-chosen programmes in the smaller Queen's Hall. On this occasion two novelties were brought forward, a trio for violin, cello, and piano forte by Paul Patel, a Russian composer, and a violin solo by Mr. Gerald Walenn. The first, a clever work, full of colour, was admirably played by Madame Frickenhausen and Misses Gerald and Herbert Walenn, and the second, a most melodious effort with a particularly effective andante, was rendered with all possible effect by the composer, Mlle. Paolina Gilardoni and Mr. Arthur Walenn were heard to advantage in vocal numbers, and the concert as a whole was as refined as it was enjoyable.

There was a good audience at Her Majesty's Hall, when each's well-known Chaconne in D minor was played with spirit and dignity, and the Kilegan-Paganini's Concerto in D major was rendered with a facility quite sufficient to prove the recital a very great technical ability. Ysaye, Handel, Svendsen, and others, were each laid under contribution. Her Werner receiving abundant applause for his refined and intelligent interpretation of a varied programme.

Mr. Charles Copeland, who did such good work in "Hansel and Gretel," gives a concert next Saturday evening at Steinway Hall, assisted by Mme. Bertha Moore, Mme. Alice Gomes, Miss Marion McKeown, Mr. Hirwen Jones, Miss Anna Goodwin (piano), M. Johanna Wolf (violin), and others.

HALLS AND PALACES. A splendid start has been made by the Alhambra, which has given the first variety performance in aid of the Indian Famine Fund, and has handed over to the authorities the magnificent sum of £400.

Sadie Jerome has evidently found that the halls give more scope for her talents than the musical medleys of the theatre. She is now to be heard at Collins's, where her presence, handsome dresses, and artistic singing is much appreciated. Mr. Sprague is giving his Islington patrons a good entertainment at the Aquarium, which proceeds throughout the day on the central stage, is particularly strong at the present moment. A new "turn," which has given great satisfaction, is that of the Valencian, who give some remarkable tight-rope-walking and second sight experiments. The clairvoyant—i.e. blindfolded and seated on the stage while her assistant mingles with the visitors and asks her to describe various objects handed to him. This she does with wonderful accuracy, naming the numbers of a bank-note, or the name on a visiting card with out any difficulty. Shortly the Maxwell-Sedgwick Combination appear at the Paragon in what is termed "a scenic spectacular sensation," entitled "Judgment." Three quick changes of scene in sight of the audience and a score of startling situations, depicting the wonders of heaven and earth, are promised.

—Tom Leamore tops the Marylebone Hall, which also bears many other well-known names, such as Cliff Ryland, Maggie Floyd, Marie De Vey, and Fred Darby.—Olympia re-opened yesterday with an eminently attractive programme, which should be the means of drawing large audiences during the months it is intended to keep the ball rolling at Addington.

Cycling races, which have proved so popular elsewhere, are to be the chief attraction, and a large number of English and foreign riders, including ladies, take part in the contests. Bands provide music in the Palmarium, where there is a variety show, and other parts of the great building, and the catering for refreshments is a special feature.

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MISS JESSIE ALBINI. For the attractive manner in which she sings her two ditties, "It's not that" and "On a Continental Sunday," a song may be really good—very few of them are, and popular on its own merits, but a bright artist such as Jessie Albinis is, and large fields entered for all seven events.

LINEAR COMPOSER. (Trade Mark) for Cosha and Coda. Linus Catharticus Fili, an agreeable peasant, Rd. 1, is led, Cosha, transparent, green, for treble, and Coda, for bass. Linus Catharticus Fili, established 1886. Of Chemists everywhere. In Bottles in 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. each.—(Advt.)

WATERLOO HORROR. ANOTHER MAN DETAINED AT HOUNSLAW.

THE SUSPECT RELEASED.

The whole detective force of London has been busy during the past week trying to solve the mystery attending the murder of Miss Elizabeth Camp at a South-western town between Barnes and Waterloo. Clue after clue has been investigated in vain, but on Thursday Det.-Insp. Mallins and 4 police officers detained at noon at Hounslow, a man named Thomas Stone, on suspicion of being the murderer of Miss Elizabeth Camp.

The police had been waiting for him since 4 o'clock in the morning, but they did not come across him until about 12. Stone, it is alleged, first became acquainted with Mrs. Haines, sister of the deceased, with whom he was on friendly terms, and it was through Mrs. Haines that he formed an acquaintance with Miss Camp. It was also stated that the police had arrested in conjunction with Stone a barber named Doman, of High-st. Hounslow. Doman lives on the premises backing on to the house of Mrs. Haines, and has been an acquaintance of Stone since Mrs. Haines went to Hounslow to live.

MRS. HAINES DENIES THAT HER SISTER IS DEAD.

A reporter saw Mrs. Haines after her return from the funeral to the Good Intent. She was absolutely astonished at the arrest, but when asked if she knew the man Stone who has been arrested at Hounslow, she said: "Yes, I do know him, but only very slightly. He used to come into my shop to buy cigarettes. That is all I know of him." "What acquaintance has your sister formed with him?" asked the reporter. "My sister? She did not know him at all." "Are you sure?" "Certain. She never saw him." "But it is said that she became acquainted with him in the first instance through you." "That is altogether false. I am certain she did not know him. She had no chance. He is not a friend of mine, and I only know him because he used to purchase cigarettes from me. Whenever my sister came to see me I always used to shut up my shop so that we should be uninterrupted. Mr. Stone never once came to the shop while my sister was there, and I am absolutely certain she did not know him at all. She couldn't have done." When asked to give a description of Stone, Mrs. Haines refused, saying that she would not do that without consulting the police first. All Miss Camp's relatives denied, too, that, to their knowledge, she was acquainted with Stone.

STONE'S ARREST.

Surgeons examined the carriage. Mr. Thomas Bond and the other surgeons who made the post mortem examination on the body of Miss Camp met at Waterloo Station subsequently for the purpose of minutely inspecting the carriage in which the murder was committed. The carriage, a first and second class composite, is standing at the end of a siding on the north side of the station and within full view of persons standing in York-nd. Lambeth. The exact position of the body when it was discovered was explained to the surgeons by Lee, the young carriage examiner, by whom the gruesome discovery was made. The impression made by the unfortunate woman when sitting with her back to the engine on the cushion on the near side of the carriage is still visible, and above it on the woodwork of the compartment, even above the hat rack, to be seen the result of the first blow with the pestle, namely, splashes of blood which are to be found on the window. Then, on the opposite seat, are the remains of a pool of blood, showing, it is conjectured, that the woman attempted to struggle with her assailant. Under the seat at the other end of the compartment and on the side opposite to where the deceased had been sitting was a pool of congealed blood as large as a dinner-plate, while the thick fibre rug also bears marks of blood.

PIECED-UP AT THE FUNERAL.

Thomas Stone, who had been detained since the morning in connection with the enquiries respecting the murder of Miss Camp, was set at liberty the same evening, having satisfied the police that there was no ground for the suspicions against him.

THE INQUIRY OPENED.

The inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Miss Elizabeth Camp does not yet appear to have been fully completed, and the coroner's inquest will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27.

THE RIOT AT DALSTON.

At N. London Michael O'Shea, 35 (who was arrested on being released from Shireburn Gaol), and John Wilson, 22, of the Royal Engineers, who were charged with participation in a riot at Dalston, which occurred in August last, and in which several constables were seriously hurt, were tried at the Old Bailey on Nov. 9 of last year, and the jury found them guilty. The court remitted the men to the Queen's Bench, and the judge remitted them to the custody of the police. The court remitted the men to the custody of the police.

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CHARGE AGAINST A MIDWIFE.

Alfred Townsend, carman, and Arthur Edwards, barman, both of whom refused their address, were charged at the S.W. Police Court with stealing a silver watch, value 24 10s., from Malachi Freeborn, a grocer, living at Sulis-nd., Brixton Hill.—Prosecutor said that on Thursday afternoon he and his wife went to the Norwood Cemetery to see the funeral of Miss Camp, the victim of what must still be regarded as the Waterloo mystery was commenced within the precincts of Lambeth Coroner's Court, and under the presidency of Mr. A. Braxton Hicks, coroner for the S.W. Division of the county of London. Public interest in the proceedings was manifested by the large number of men and women who took up their positions in the court and watched the arrival of witnesses and others interested in the case. The court was crowded. A number of the officers were present, including Chief Det.-Insp. Marshall and Chief Insp. Robinson, for the police; Supt. Robinson for the railway company's police, and Mr. M. H. Hall representing the railway company as solicitor. The first witness was Mrs. Annie Skeat, a rather delicate-looking lady, dressed in a dark blue dress, and wearing a white lace collar. She was 33 last birthday. She was

HOUSEKEEPER AND BARMARD.

to Mr. Alfred Harris, of the Good Intent beerhouse, East-st., Walworth, She was single. Her father's name was William Thomas Camp, and he was a tobacconist's assistant. He is now dead. I last saw my sister alive on the afternoon of Thursday, the 13th, when she visited me at Hammett's. The coroner said that was all he needed as the witness on the present occasion. Addressing the jury, he said: "I propose at this point to adjourn the proceedings. I shall adjourn the case now in order to give every facility for the police inquiries to be made, instead of going into what might prove to be extraneous matter or wide of the real issue. There is no necessity to go any further to-day. No one is in custody, and I shall adjourn the inquiry for a month. I can call you together."—Mr. M. H. Hall said: "—Mr. Coroner, I represent the directors of the L. and S.W. Rly. and on their behalf I desire to express the utmost sympathy with the relatives of deceased.—Coroner: You are quite in order, sir, I am sure we all realize that the friends of deceased are greatly to be commiserated with on their bereavement under such distressing circumstances.—Mr. Hall:—Mr. Coroner, I represent the directors of the L. and S.W. Rly. and on their behalf I desire to express the utmost sympathy with the relatives of deceased.—Coroner: You are quite in order, sir, I am sure we all realize that the friends of deceased are greatly to be commiserated with on their bereavement under such distressing circumstances.—Mr. Hall:—Mr. Coroner, I represent the directors of the L. and S.W. 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CRETAN CRISIS.

RUSSIA MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

CRETE OCCUPIED.

KING OF GREECE PREPARED TO LEAD HIS ARMY.

ALARMING SITUATION.

The Cretan crisis is fully as alarming as ever, and no one can say what an hour may bring forth. Briefly summarized, the leading facts of the situation just now are as follows:—

(1) Parties of Marines from the British, Italian, French, Austrian, and Russian warships have jointly occupied the towns of Canea, Sitia, and Retimo.

(2) The Greek expeditionary force has landed, and it is stated, has captured a fort.

(3) The Turks have been ordered to garrison, and troops have been sent to Crete.

(4) Russia is preparing for war at a moment's notice.

(5) King George of Greece declares himself ready to lead his army and "die" on the battlefield.

(6) Greek troops have captured a fort with 200 Turkish prisoners, after hard fighting.

(7) Massacres of Turks by Cretans have occurred, and will be found described in the Parliamentary report for Friday night on p. 11.

RUSSIA PREPARING FOR WAR.

Perhaps one of the most significant items of news is that which comes from St. Petersburg. The author of it is "The Times" correspondent, who is careful, however, not to assume a too alarming tone. "He writes:

"There is no longer any reason doubt that Russia is preparing for war. I do not mean to declare war or to make war against anybody, but everything is being got ready, as far as the winter season will allow, to meet any necessity in connection with the Turkish difficulties which will require action at some other time."

The Black Sea Fleet, consisting of 6 ironclads and a large number of gunboats, torpedo-boats, &c., under the flag of Admiral Kopetoff, commander of the Black Sea ports, is ready to start at a moment's notice, and a cash credit has been opened by the Imperial Admiralty at Sevastopol. It is said to have been given by the English paper that the Baltic Fleet is also being made ready, but the author of that news had evidently forgotten the ice-bound condition of Russia's northern ports at this season. Considered in view of the opinion of naval experts, and the Great Duke Alexei has just paid a visit of inspection there. It has been reported that he had gone to the Black Sea, but this is not true.

SEALED INSTRUCTIONS.

Admiral Vassiloff, the chief of the naval staff, wrote some little time ago to see that all was in order, and sealed instructions were at the same time sent to the commanders of the Russian ships in Greek waters. There is also a partial, if not a complete, mobilization of a certain number of troops in the south. Even the Red Cross Society, which is in the direct control of a Russian friend of mine, just arrived here, tells me that while lying very ill in one of the towns on the railway route to the Crimea, he wished to be transferred to a bed in the local hospital of the Red Cross Society, but was informed that he could not be admitted owing to preparations for receiving sick and wounded in case of war.

IS THIS A FORGERY?

Read in the light of the above, it is curious to note that the "Frankfurter Zeitung" learns from Constantinople that the Empress Dowager of Russia has sent the following telegram to her brother, King George:—

"I am anxiously expecting information from you about this terrible state of things.

"For my part I shall do everything to help you."

It is natural to think that your George is there—With most heartfelt love, your Min."

In political quarters at Vienna the authenticity of this telegram is not believed in.

FOREIGN MARINES LANDED.

Detachments of Marines from the foreign warships have now landed at Candia, Retimo, and Sitia. At Retimo, which has been occupied by Marines from the French warship *Suquet*, the commander of the latter has issued a proclamation to the inhabitants. Admiral Canivaro, acting on behalf of the combined squadrons, has sent to the Greek Consul at Canea a communication informing him that the object of the Powers in occupying the ports of Canea, Retimo, Candia, and Sitia was to promote a settlement of the question without bloodshed. The note, therefore, apprised the Consul that any attack on the part of either the Turks or Christians against the four towns will be repelled by the united forces of the Powers. The admiral likewise urges that the Christians and the Hellenic soldiers should abstain from any military action on other points of the island.

GUARDED BY BRITISH BLUEJACKETS.

The Greek Consulate at Canea is guarded by a mixed detachment of foreign bluejackets. The Greek Consul has communicated the proclamation issued by Col. Vassos, the Greek Commandant in the island, to the foreign Consuls and naval commanders. The admirals of the foreign squadron sent an intimation to the Greek Consul that he should lower the flag over the Consulate, in view of the action pursued in Crete by the Greek Government. After accepting the intimation, the Consul removed the flag and lowered the flagstaff.

TURKISH FLEET ORDERED OUT.

Orders have been given for the preparation of 3 Turkish squadrons, the first of which is to leave for Cretan waters in 5 days. It will be commanded by Vice-admiral Faik Pasha, Chief of the Naval Staff, and is to consist of 20 warships, including the ironclads *Mesudiet*, *Orkhanli*, and *Asizieh*, and 10 torpedo-boats. It will be increased to the number of 25 ships in the Archipelago and in the Gulf of Alexandria.

The second squadron will be commanded by Vice-admiral H. H. H. Pasha, Director of the Arsenal, and is to comprise 5 warships, including the ironclads *Mesudiet*, *Orkhanli*, and *Nedim Skefet*, and 10 torpedo-boats. The torpedo-boats already in Cretan waters are placed under the command of Vice-admiral Sami Pasha, at present Commodore in the Red Sea. The Ministry of Marine has asked for a credit of £150,000. Besides the Redifs of the Third Army Corps, the *Ichtiaid*, or men on leave, of the same corps have also been called out. Altogether 6 divisions, consisting of about 76,000 men, will be concentrated near the Greek frontier. Fifty thousand naval reserves and men on leave have also been called out for service.

RUSSIAN CONSUL SISTER MUTILATED.

Lieut.-col. Dimitris has been appointed chief of the general staff of the Greek expeditionary corps. Seven officers have been sent to Crete to organise companies of volunteers under Col. Vassos. A Greek battalion has received orders to be in readiness to start for the island. It is announced that Saadeddin Pasha has left for Crete with 3 Turkish battalions, and this step, it is apprehended, may lead to serious complications. On receipt of the intelligence, Col. Vassos, who has declared that he has no intention of attacking Canea, established his head-

quarters at Gonia. At Halepa the dead body of the Russian Vice-consul's sister has been found in a mangled condition.

NEWS OF GREECE AND HIS PURSE.

Paris, Feb. 18.—The "Politique Coloniale" says its Athens correspondent writes as follows, under date of the 13th inst.:— "King George will take command of the Northern Army. This step is so serious that grave events are anticipated. It is stated that the King, in the course of a conversation yesterday with the Minister of a foreign Power, whose reigning family is united to His Majesty by close ties of relationship, made the following observation:—

"If I do not do my duty at the head of my army I shall be obliged to leave Greece. Now I do not wish to be a king in exile. I should prefer to die in the battlefield."

The correspondent adds that he reproduces the exact words of the King.

THE TURKS PROPOSE.

Up to a few days ago, says a Berlin correspondent, Germany repeated, what she has maintained for years, that she was the least interested

Power in the Eastern question, and that it was therefore not for her to take the lead. All at once the note changed. The Emperor, convinced that Greece had violated international law, thought it necessary to force her to make reparation. His indignation increased with Greece's resistance, and, with the impetuosity which belongs to him, he maintained that Europe ought not to tolerate it. In politics, however, the straight way is not always the best, and thus it has come about that the situation is worse instead of better. A Berlin paper reports that a rather animated conversation ensued between Lord Salisbury and Count von Hatzfeldt, when the British Premier showed his disinclination to accept Germany's proposal, and again it is rumoured that the last interview between the Emperor and Sir Frank Lascelles left no doubt about his Majesty's mood. It was on this occasion that the Emperor himself made the suggestion of a blockade, which the British Ambassador duly communicated to his Government, and to which the negative answer reached Berlin on Thursday. The blockade project may be regarded as definitely abandoned, all the more as France and Italy were also betraying reluctance.

[Yesterday's news will be found on another page.]

PUBLIC HEAVILY FINED.

Amanou de Nickie, the Salmon and Compasses, Dorrington-street, Leather-lane, was summoned, at Clerkenwell, by the Revenue authorities for diluting beer, and for having in her possession a quantity of sugar for other than domestic use.

Mr. Drake, who prosecuted, explained that with regard to the sugar proof as to the use of it was laid by the statute upon defendant. It appeared that 2 officers of the Inland Revenue visited the premises on Oct. 21.

They found in the bar-parlour 20lb. of sugar of a very coarse character. They took samples of porter, which proved, on analysis, to be diluted to the extent of 5-10 gallons to the barrel of 36 gallons.—In the defence it was pointed out with regard to the sugar that the statute, which threw the onus of proof of use upon defendant, did not allow defendant to give evidence. The sugar in this case was used for colouring in cakes and puddings and for coffee. As to the porter, the cask sampled was "waste," and to be returned to the brewers.—Mr. Howard (chairman): But you signed the charge-sheet.—Witness: I don't remember signing it no more than the dead, and I don't know what I said.

—Pressed by the clerk, witness maintained that prisoners did not on this occasion strike her, though he did so years ago.—Sergt. Orpwood said the woman, who was drunk, told him the prisoner hit her on the arm with a knife, but the doctor said the wound was not caused with a knife.—The barmaid said they could not say which story was correct, and dismissed the case, allowing Childs a week in which to pay the costs.

INTERVIEW WITH BUTLER.

Butler was interviewed during the day by Dalziel's representative, to whom he said: "The story that Capt. Jones identified me is untrue. I had not intended to say anything further in regard to my history, but these lies compel me to do so. The records of the shipping office at Liverpool show that I shipped on board the *Elidua*, in 1891, under the name of Richard Ashe. We went to Barrow-in-Furness, and there loaded iron for Newcastle, and then loaded iron for Newcastle, New South Wales. In 1892 I was employed in a transport taking troops to Egypt. Then I was employed in a Cunarder transport, called No. 35—the original name of the transport having been discarded. While on board that transport we went to Malta, and took on board the Gordon Highlanders, then went to Alexandria during the bombardment, after which we landed the Marines, and then went to Cape Town for the 600 Rifles." Butler gave to the reporter a verse which he had composed in his cell:—

Wounded and sorrowful far, far from my home,
Sick among strangers, uncared for, unknown;

But even the birds that sweetly do sing
Are silent, and swiftly taking their wing.

No one but mother could so fervently pray,
None to console me, no kind friends are near.

But mother could comfort me if she was here.

Chorus:

Gently against her my forehead she presses,
Trying to save me from pain or distress.

THE DALSTON RIOT.

At N. London, Michael O'Shea, 25

(who was arrested on being released from Shrewsbury Gaol), and John

Wilson, 22, of no fixed abode, were

charged with participation in a riot at

Dalston, which occurred in August last, and in which several constables

were seriously hurt. Six men had

already been convicted and sentenced.

P. C. Green, who was the most

seriously injured, and who was under

the doctor's care from Aug. 10 until

Nov. 9 of last year, said that when he

was assisting in the arrest of Wilson, O'Shea snatched his truncheon from his hand and struck him with it. This

felched him to the ground, and then the

mob brutally kicked him. The prisoner

Wilson escaped from custody, and the

angry mob freely used sticks and

stones.—Remanded.

DOCKERS' CONFERENCE.

The International Conference of the

Federation of Ship, Dock, and River

Workers, which opens in London to-

morrow, is being looked forward to

with considerable interest by all

sections of workmen connected with

the shipping and carrying trades. The

whole of the opening day will be

devoted to matters affecting British

labour, and it is understood that the

foreign delegates, who are expected to

arrive during the day, will be received

in the evening by the Council of the

Federation at the central offices.

The real business will be entered

upon Tuesday at the Holborn

Town Hall, and the deliberations

will extend over the following day.

A large contingent of delegates are

expected from Hamburg, and other

representatives will attend from

France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden,

Denmark, Norway, and Russia, whilst

all the principal ports in the United

Kingdom will be represented. It is

understood that the position at Ham-

brough will be discussed, and a motion

will be brought forward by an English

delegate as to the advisability of de-

ciding upon some definite action to be

jointly taken by each country at

such date as the conference thinks

fit to decide upon. It was stated

yesterday that a new set of demands

will probably be formulated to meet

the requirements of the various sec-

tions in all ports.

FOUNDED IN A POND.

Soon after daybreak yesterday, a

team driver, named Erskine, of Bal-

ham, while proceeding to work, dis-

covered the body of a woman in the

Island Pond, Clapham Common. De-

ceased, who was respectably attired,

was about 25 years of age, but nothing

was found upon the corpse likely to

lead to its identification.

BIG FRAUD CASES.

which occupy the entire day in the

extradition court, has tended on more

than one occasion to seriously block

the business of the court. Sir John

Vaughan, magistrate, and brother-in-

law to Mr. Jacob Bright. In this event

Mr. Vaughan will become the senior

magistrate, the title always being be-

The People.

THE QUEEN'S REIGN.
With reference to a rumour as to the proposed service at St. Paul's Cathedral in commemoration of the Queen's reign (referred to on page 8), a representative of the "People" last night said Dean Gregory, who is president of the committee, intimated with the arrangements. The dean, while admitting that a meeting of the committee had been held yesterday afternoon, said that no decision had been reached, nor would it be for some time to come.

OUR COLONIAL VICTORY.

A correspondent at Cape Town, cabling yesterday, says:—A despatch from Mr. Chamberlain states that the "Longest Reign" festivities are expected to last a week. He thinks that some time may be profitably employed in discussing the questions of commercial union, colonial defence, colonial representation, and Asiatic immigration.

A Reuter's telegram from Cape Town yesterday says:—

Steps are already in progress for the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June next, and a discussion is proceeding in the press as to the best way to commemorate the event.

In Cape Town the establishment of a teaching university has been suggested, and in support of this suggestion Chief Justice Sir H. de Villiers has addressed a letter to the "Cape Times," in which, after expressing the hope that the university

will be a truly South African one, says:—It will never be truly South African unless we realize the fact that the needs of a people speaking two languages have to be provided for.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS.

The fund being raised in the county

of Surrey to commemorate the Queen's reign yesterday amounted to £1,000.

It is proposed to erect a Convalescent Home for Women.

In the name of the Hellenic Government, and the Greek general and the naval officers of the Powers are gazing at each other in the most supreme

embarrassment as to what is going to happen next.

This state of things may, of course, precipitate the catastrophe of a European war.

The Turks are preparing to avenge the insult inflicted upon them by the Greeks, and if left to themselves, they would certainly not come off second best in the struggle.

They know, however, well enough, and so do the Greeks, that Turkey will never be allowed to do the Hellenic kingdom any harm.

But the Powers must be firm in insisting that the Greek forces shall retire from Crete and leave the pacification of the island to them.

There is no fear that Turkish despotism will ever be allowed to supreme there again; but, whatever the ultimate

government of Crete may be, the Greeks must not be permitted to annex the island in the face of Europe.

If that were allowed, the troubles which would certainly follow in the Balkan Peninsula, to say nothing of a possible revolution in Constantinople itself, might, very likely, produce the fatal result which has so long been successfully avoided.

All depends, therefore, upon the Powers.

Will dignity be firm in impressing its pleasure upon impudence? For our own part, we believe that it will, and that the danger of war is less imminent in reality than is generally believed.

Is there, at the present time, any single Power which desires war?

England, unquestionably, does not.

France will follow Russia, and the whole trend of Russian policy points

to peace in order that she may be free to develop her vast Asiatic Empire and ambitions, and to carry out internal reforms.

Germany has a whole-some dread of the Dual Alliance—

at all events she will do nothing to provoke hostilities—Austria has difficulties enough at home, and, besides, has had her

no money, and, besides, has had her

LK OF THE PEOPLE.

LATEST ELECTRIC FLASHES.

HOME.

The Rev. Valentine Browne, vicar of Flamstead, near Luton, is lying seriously ill as the result of an accident in the hunting field. The Rev. gentleman's injuries are believed to be serious.

At a meeting of Staffordshire and Worcestershire chairmakers at Cradley Heath it was announced that all the employers excepting 3 had condemned the 3s. list of prices, equivalent to an advance of 10 per cent.

A man named Flaherty walked into a house in Dover, occupied only by an old lady, and stole some property. A lady visitor in the house discovered the thief, whom she succeeded in detaining until the police arrived. Sentenced to 3 months.

James Ross, hawker, Hull, was at Scarborough committed for 6 weeks for stealing a silver teapot and trowel. Prisoner's excuse was that he had been drinking for a month. He went to sleep, and found the teapot under his head when he woke up.

At Castle Eden, Thomas Hutchinson, farm labourer, was committed for trial at Durham, on a charge of arson. It is alleged he set 8 stacks of oats on fire on his brother-in-law's farm at Wheatside Hill, because he had been discharged.

A fire caused by friction broke out in a mule at the Setton Colton Spinning Mill, Green Lane, Haywood. The outbreak assumed large proportions, and when the fire brigade arrived affairs were in a critical state, the place, however, was quickly inundated with water, and the fire was mastered.

Five Wootton men, named Poole, Loft, Hutchings, Cooper, and Swan-

nell, were sentenced at Bedford to 3

months' hard labour for brutally as-

saulting P.C. Javens, who was at-

tacked late at night, thrown into a

ditch, and jumped on by one of the

prisoners, besides receiving severe in-

juries by being kicked.

The death has just occurred in Worcester Workhouse of John Connolly, aged 103. He came to England early in life, and being a cripple led the life of a vagrant, making frequent appearances at neighbouring police courts. He remained until death all his facilities, and had a remarkable memory.

Four boys named Davis, Carlless, Mallen, and Aston were remanded at Wednesbury for committing a daring burglary. Prisoners broke into an auctioneer's premises and took a quantity of jewellery, &c. They were detected in consequence of some women quarrelling over the proceeds of the robbery.

At a council meeting of the Man-

chester Miners' Association, held at Walkden yesterday, Mr. R. Watts, secretary, stated that, owing to the reconstruction of the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation, it has been decided to disband the Man-

chester Miners' Association, which had been in existence 11 years, owing to its absorption into the county federation.

Mr. Smith Barry, M.P., speaking at

Godmanchester last night, described Mr. Rhodes as an Englishman of whom they might be proud. They

might not be able to say that every action of his was justified, or that

everything he did or might have done, met with approval, but he hoped they

should not find in the course of the evidence against him anything of a prejudicial character.

At Doncaster, Wm. and Amy Howard were charged with gross neglect of their infant child. Neighbours remonstrated with the mother about insufficient nourishment, and she was warned by the doctor who gave her 2s. 6d. to obtain suitable food for the child, which was insured, and was only half the normal weight for the age. Remanded.

At Lancaster, John Nicholson, a member of Skerton Association Foot-
ball team, and Thos. Parkinson were remanded on a charge of burglary. They were seen in a grocer's shop, and 9 policemen besieged the premises. Prisoners had broken open both till, and had a large quantity of booty packed up. Their houses contained the proceeds of numerous other recent robberies.

William Smith Porter, described as a solicitor, was at Monmouthshire Assizes, sentenced to 10 years' penal servitude for forging cheques on Lloyd's Bank, Abergavenny. He had previously undergone 12 months and 5 years for forgery. After leaving Abergavenny he forged a cheque for £1,750 at Lleida. After going about the country, opening fictitious accounts at various banks he was captured at Downham Market, Norfolk.

FOREIGN.

The Pope celebrated the 19th anniversary of his ascension to the Pontifical throne yesterday with the customary ceremony.—DALEZIEL.

According to a telegram from Saigon, Dr. Yersin, the well-known bacteriologist, has left Paris for Bombay with a supply of his anti-plague serum.

The boiler in the machine-room of the Chicago "Morning Chronicle" exploded yesterday, fatally injuring 6 persons and doing great damage to property.—DALEZIEL.

A ministerial order is promulgated prohibiting the importation into and transit through Austria-Hungary of animal raw products and refuse from all parts of British India, and ports to the West as far as the Red Sea.

Advices from Kingston, Jamaica, state that the British steamer May founded in the Caribbean Sea on the 5th inst. The crew took to the boat, and were rescued by the barque, Glen Grant.—DALEZIEL.

Baron Banfy, in the Hungarian Diet yesterday, announced that the Government would set apart April 11, 1898, for a public celebration of the 50th anniversary of the passing of the famous laws of 1848.—REUTER.

There are two things which the London County Council is not going to get yet awhile, and the ratepayers may reasonably rejoice. One is that preposterous palace which was to cost about two millions, and the other is the Water Bills which it brings into Parliament once again on March 11. The first has been squashed by the House of Commons, and the second is going to be squashed by the Government, who will bring in a Water Bill of their own, though I believe the Progressive still decline to believe that this will be done. In both cases they have lost everything by trying to insist on too much, and the popular verdict will be "Serve them right."

WIDE AWAKE.

SAVOY THEATRE LAST NIGHT.

Without the one thought common to the characteristically brilliant audience which assembled at the Savoy Theatre last night was this: "Will the Mackenzie and Burnand partnership maintain those delightful traditions with which the name of Mr. D'Oyley Carte has long been associated?" The answer, as provided by the new work, "His Majesty; or the Court of Vingolia," must be in the affirmative, if with reservations. The popular editor of "Punch" has given us already many amusing libretti, which, if full of daring in puns, have always revealed a plentiful fund of humour, abundant ingenuity of plot, and a nice appreciation of the various possibilities afforded by the unrestricted license of comic opera. Sir A. Mackenzie, however, although he is known to entertain high aspirations respecting grand opera, now, for the first time, brings his acknowledged ability as a composer to the service of that lighter muse whom Sullivan and, later, Stanford have wooed to such excellent purpose. There is always risk in breaking new ground, and while welcoming the advent of the Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, we wish it were possible to speak in terms of unqualified praise of his latest effort. Of course so excellent a musician as Sir Alexander could write nothing cheap or unworthy, but in the score of "His Majesty," much of the music lacks spontaneity, and that charm which comes of simplicity of construction. It is in the part writing that Sir A. Mackenzie has the best of the two, and the score is finished and effective. His setting of the patter songs, on the other hand, are hardly so successful, and the poor singer has hardly time to breath. Fortunately most of the obvious defects can be easily remedied; numbers that are too long can be shortened; others, which musically lack point, can easily be dispensed with, and then, when the book has been appreciably reduced, particularly in the first of the two acts, and some silly business eliminated, there will still remain much that calls for congratulation. The death of the Royal hand, must be left for that visit to the Savoy, which is sure to be paid by those anxious to judge for themselves the merits of the latest production. The arch plotter is a dismissed Master of the Revels, who in the person of clever Walter Pasmore, provides most of the fun, and will furnish more as the days go by. Anxious to re-enter the Royal presence, he adopts some grotesque disguises, and dances a diverting horn-pipe in the costume of an old pig-tailed tar, having earlier given an amusing skit on the prevailing craze for plantation ditties. This is what he sings, with a chorus "bouche fer me":

"Li' d' mudi-hally pieces, when da rumpty cease,
And da leading lady come to see da moon.
When do poot mooley ended—that's if say
we in da moon!
It is time for da carol ob da coon!
For da horroon hab gut on pretty stripy pants
ob cotton.
Wid a fold up do lef' leg or da right,
And da lime-light shew her figure, as she warble
like a nigger.
Just like me.
Oh, ma, ma, ma, Oh! molasses,
Oh! in cream, oh! apric' sasses.
Hear me sing as a boy o' Carolina might;
Go to sleep, oh! so deep.
Go to crooning ob my coonning.
Darling Dina, Dina, Dina-mite!"

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Mr. Rhodes got on much better at the Committee of Inquiry on Friday than he did on Tuesday, chiefly because he seemed to have made up his mind that he would not be put out of temper. Mr. William Harcourt by no means came out top from Friday's encounter of wits, and the utter frankness and conclusiveness of the witness seemed to tame him completely. It is of no use to employ all the arts of cross-examination with a witness who accepts the full responsibility for what has been done, and only asserts that he did it with the best intentions.

One effect the examination of Mr. Rhodes has certainly produced already upon the House of Commons, and that is a conviction that whether he was mistaken or not he was actuated by a very genuine patriotism, and by no mean motives whatever.

The presentation of Mr. Kruger's bill gives them an admirable opportunity for assuming a rather more resolute attitude than heretofore. It is not quite easy to make out whether the "moral and intellectual image" is included in the million which Mr. Kruger asks, or whether it is a separate item. It really does matter very much, since the whole is utterly preposterous, and means nothing but a farce.

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At the Savoy Theatre last night was this: "Will the Mackenzie and Burnand partnership maintain those delightful traditions with which the name of Mr. D'Oyley Carte has long been associated?" The answer, as provided by the new work, "His Majesty; or the Court of Vingolia," must be in the affirmative, if with reservations. The popular editor of "Punch" has given us already many amusing libretti, which, if full of daring in puns, have always revealed a plentiful fund of humour, abundant ingenuity of plot, and a nice appreciation of the various possibilities afforded by the unrestricted license of comic opera. Sir A. Mackenzie, however, although he is known to entertain high aspirations respecting grand opera, now, for the first time, brings his acknowledged ability as a composer to the service of that lighter muse whom Sullivan and, later, Stanford have wooed to such excellent purpose. There is always risk in breaking new ground, and while welcoming the advent of the Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, we wish it were possible to speak in terms of unqualified praise of his latest effort. Of course so excellent a musician as Sir Alexander could write nothing cheap or unworthy, but in the score of "His Majesty," much of the music lacks spontaneity, and that charm which comes of simplicity of construction. It is in the part writing that Sir A. Mackenzie has the best of the two, and the score is finished and effective. His setting of the patter songs, on the other hand, are hardly so successful, and the poor singer has hardly time to breath. Fortunately most of the obvious defects can be easily remedied; numbers that are too long can be shortened; others, which musically lack point, can easily be dispensed with, and then, when the book has been appreciably reduced, particularly in the first of the two acts, and some silly business eliminated, there will still remain much that calls for congratulation. The death of the Royal hand, must be left for that visit to the Savoy, which is sure to be paid by those anxious to judge for themselves the merits of the latest production. The arch plotter is a dismissed Master of the Revels, who in the person of clever Walter Pasmore, provides most of the fun, and will furnish more as the days go by. Anxious to re-enter the Royal presence, he adopts some grotesque disguises, and dances a diverting horn-pipe in the costume of an old pig-tailed tar, having earlier given an amusing skit on the prevailing craze for plantation ditties. This is what he sings, with a chorus "bouche fer me":

"Li' d' mudi-hally pieces, when da rumpty cease,
And da leading lady come to see da moon.
When do poot mooley ended—that's if say
we in da moon!
It is time for da carol ob da coon!
For da horroon hab gut on pretty stripy pants
ob cotton.
Wid a fold up do lef' leg or da right,
And da lime-light shew her figure, as she warble
like a nigger.
Just like me.
Oh, ma, ma, ma, Oh! molasses,
Oh! in cream, oh! apric' sasses.
Hear me sing as a boy o' Carolina might;
Go to sleep, oh! so deep.
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"Li' d' mudi-hally

BENIN.

BRITISH OFFICERS KILLED AND WOUNDED.

SEVERE FIGHTING.

The British punitive expedition is slowly making its way through the dense forest towards its goal, but meantime is experiencing a good deal of resistance from the savage potentate, who knows full well that he is fighting with a halter round his neck. The following telegram has been received at the Admiralty from Rear-Admiral Benson, C.B., dated Ologbo, Feb. 13:—"I took expedition up Benin river in hired steamers on Feb. 10, landed Warihi 11th, marched to Siri same day, attacked and occupied Ologbo 12th. Force under captain of Philomel attacked and occupied Gili-gili and Gwato on the 10th. Force under captain of Phoebe occupied and stockaded a position 4 miles from Sapoba on the 12th."

Casualties at Ologbo.—Capt. L. C. Kee, Pro-tectorate force, severely wounded; 3 natives slightly wounded.

Casualties at Gwato.—Lieut. and Comr. G. D. Hunt, Wideside; Daniel Hallinan, Midshipman 1st class, slightly wounded; 12 natives, 10 severely wounded.

Casualties at Sili.—Lieut. and Comr. M. P. O'Callaghan, Philomel; Henry E. Baker, Midshipman 1st class, slightly wounded.

Casualties at Sapoba.—Lieut. and Comr. Alecto, killed. Private Colis Mill, Plymouth Division, 1/22, deceased, died from snare.

"Shall continue advance towards Benin from Ologbo directly I have established base there. Advance will be slow owing to dense forest and absence of water. No advance from Sapoba and Gwato, but both places will be held." The base has now been fully formed at Sili, and all the troops are in camp. The scouts and Pro-tectorate troops will proceed from Ologbo and advance on Benin, the naval columns following later. The weather is very hot but all the troops are in splendid condition. Capt. Boisragon, however, is invalided. The first division, consisting of the Niger Coast Protectorate force under the command of Lieut.-col. Bruce Hamilton, has left Sili, and, after

SWEEPING THE BUSH WITH MAXIMS

from the launch Primrose, landed a party at Ologbo, which was occupied about 8 a.m. Capt. Kee, of the Pro-tectorate force, was wounded in the right wrist. The enemy fought stubbornly, firing repeated volleys, which were effectively returned. At about 11 a.m., a party of black troops, with 2 Maxim, one 7-pounder, and one rocket tube, supported by a party of bluejackets, rushed the enemy, after firing volleys into the bush for nearly an hour. The first village on the road to Benin was shelled and taken. It is now occupied by the Pro-tectorate force. Dr. Roth accompanied the force as medical officer. Admiral Rawson, Consul-general, Moor, and the staff are at Sili.

LETTER FROM MR. LOKE.

The following is an extract from a short letter written by Mr. Loke, and dated Benin, Jan. 12, 1897:—"I hope to-day you will have received the Foreign Office wire as well as my own. I write this as you are not likely to see me until my arm is right, when I hope to go home. A few small shot are left in my arm, also a bit of iron in my body. Never has such a cold-blooded murder taken place, I should think. They knew we were unarmed, as we only went on a peaceful mission. Capt. Boisragon and self were the only two not severely wounded, all the other poor fellows, as far as we could tell, being killed. We hadn't much choice what to do; had we waited we should have been shot."

CUT DOWN WITH HAMMERS.

on the other hand we had to face starvation. I cannot describe the horrors of those 5 days without food or water, forcing our way through most awful brush so as to avoid the villages and to keep on our course, N.W. The dew on the leaves was all we had to live on—that only in the early morning. Our escape is a most wonderful piece of providence. Some of the carriers are now coming in all bone and skin. We hoped to hear Campbell was still alive, as he was on the rear of the column, but they can give no information. As you can imagine, there was not much left of us, but are picking up now and feel more comfortable."

THE KING'S GHASTLY MESSAGE.

Mr. J. Pinnock, of Liverpool, has just received by the W. African mail

the intelligence that a ghastly relic of the massacre of the Benin expedition is now at his house at Sapoba. It

consists of a finger of Mr. Thomas Gordon, one of the murdered whites.

The King ordered the finger to be cut off and sent as a present to Mr. Swanson, the agent of Mr. Pinnock.

It has been ascertained that after Gordon

was killed his head was cut off, and afterwards the finger, on which there

was a ring, was severed level with the hand. The King ordered the finger,

with the ring still upon it, to be sent to Mr. Swanson, with whom he is well acquainted. It was wrapped up in a piece of dried palm leaf, and the King's messenger was ordered to give it to the white man called "Samson," by which name Mr. Swanson is known at Benin city. The ring on the finger bears a shield in plain gold, on which is engraved the monogram "T. G.," proving conclusively to whom the ring and finger belonged.

PRO. INSPECTOR ACCUSED.

Edward Slack, otherwise Mandeville, 41, post office inspector, was charged at Clerkswell Sessions with obtaining, by false pretences, from Bendito Campana, the sum of £40 and £20, with intent to defraud. Campana is employed as a waiter at a restaurant in Arbury-nd, Highgate, where Slack was known as a customer. In May last, a conversation about money matters arose. Slack stated, it was alleged, that he was a Government inspector, worth £22,000, and in receipt of a salary of £350 per annum. He induced Campana to part with £20 and £20, representing, it was stated, that in a year it would be double that amount. Accused was given an exemplary character, commencing from a boy, over 20 years ago, to his present position. Mr. Randolph impressed upon the jury the fact that his client only borrowed the money, and that he was still liable for repayment in another court, and that he had no intention to defraud.—Acquitted.

THE JAMESON RAID. OPENING OF THE GOVERNMENT INQUIRY.

MR. RHODES'S EVIDENCE.

Just about a year ago all England was abashed with the news of the Jameson raid. This week we are face to face with the sequel to that operation, the inquiry at Westminster Hall. It may be convenient here to give the names of the members of the committee. They number 15, of whom 9 are Ministerialists, 5 are Liberals, and the remaining 1 are an Irish Nationalist. Their names are as follows:

Mr. L. Jackson, Chairman.

Mr. Chamberlain.

Mr. W. Harcourt.

Mr. H. Campbell-Bannerman.

Mr. Sydney Burton.

Mr. J. E. Baker.

Mr. Labouchere.

Mr. E. Blaize.

Mr. G. Wyndham.

A RESOLUTION READ.

At the outset Mr. Jackson read a resolution of the committee as to the latitude to be allowed counsel in the conduct of the case, and without any demur, Mr. Rhodes was called forward. Mr. Rhodes has been described again and again, but as he appeared more or less as he appeared before. To quote his own words, "used some months back, he is here to face the music," and he struck one as a man who was prepared at all costs to state, directly and distinctly, what was his share in the history-making events of a year ago. He is a tall, burly man, with a bronzed, fearless face, and, before taking his seat, he bowed to the committee.

STATEMENT BY MR. RHODES.

Having explained that he was a Privy Councillor, and described the various offices he has filled, Mr. Rhodes declared that he thought it best he should make a personal statement. He accordingly read his statement, but he went through it so rapidly that the chairman caused him to moderate his speech in order that the press might follow him:

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

The deaths registered last week in 33 great towns of England and Wales corresponded to an annual rate of 19.6 per 1,000 of their aggregate population, which is estimated at 10,992,624 persons in the middle of this year.

In London 2,817 births and 1,588 deaths were last week registered.

Allowing for increase of population, the births were 41 above, and the deaths 178 below, the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last 10 years.

The annual death-rate per 1,000 from all causes, which had been 18.1, 19.5, and 20.6 in the preceding 3 weeks, fell again last week to 18.6.

During the 4 weeks ending on Saturday last the death-rate averaged 18.3 per 1,000, being 3.7 per 1,000 below the mean rate in the corresponding periods of the 10 years 1887-96.

The deaths attributed directly to influenza numbered 14, having been 7, 7, and 11 in the preceding 3 weeks.

Different forms of violence caused 61 deaths, concerning all but 2 of which inquests were held.

In Greater London, 4,022 births and 2,067 deaths were registered, corresponding to annual rates of 33.3 and 17.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The average depth of sand in the African desert is thought to be from 80 to 40 feet.

Sir C. Markham has left England in H.M.S. Royal Sovereign for 2 or 3 weeks.

Lady Elgin, the wife of the Viceroy of India, gave birth to a son this week. Both mother and child are doing well.

Mr. C. Depew declares that he has never been offered the Ambassadorship at London, or, indeed, received any word on the subject from Canton, China.

Sen. Cuestas has been elected President of the Uruguayan Senate, and therefore, Vice-President of the Republic for one year. He was the official candidate.

The Handel Society, of which the Empress Frederick is patroness, has decided to repeat next year the Handel Festival, which was such a success at Mayence in 1883.

Prince and Princess Hohenlohe will celebrate their golden wedding this week as quickly as possible, as they are in mourning for the only daughter of the Hereditary Prince.

As Mr. H. Beaumont, of Hoddean, Herts, was alighting from a bus in Bishopsgate-st, he fell into the roadway. He alighted on his head and died shortly after.

Sir H. Kitchener, the Sirdar, has gone to Dongola, where he will remain several weeks inspecting the military stations and completing the work of organisation.

There is a strong probability that Japan will adopt a gold standard. The Government will introduce measures this session for the introduction of a gold standard at a ratio of 5 to 32.

Under the patronage of the Duchess of Albany, a fund has been started amongst the ladies of Surrey for the purchase of a Challenge Cup, to be competed for annually amongst officers of the Surrey Rifle Brigade.

Two degrees of canonisation of French Saints, Pierre Fourier and Antonio Zaccaria, the founder of the Barnabites, were read this week at the Vatican, in the presence of the Pope.

The members of the Marystown Presbyterian Church contemplate fitting the stipend of Dr. Pentecost's successor at £1,000 a year. This was the amount received by the late Dr. D. Fraser.

Lovers of music will be glad to learn that 2 hitherto unknown compositions by Franz Schubert, the centenary of whose birth was recently celebrated, have been discovered. They bear the titles of "Meerestille" and "Jagerbande."

A Foreign Office report on the financial estimates of the German Empire for 1897-98 has been issued. The estimated income from ordinary sources shows an increase of £1,250,000 over that allowed for on the Budget of 1896-97.

A sensible innovation is about to be introduced at the National Gallery.

A room is to be set apart for the exhibition of copies of pictures, under control of a committee, which will arrange that the best copies, selected by 5 or 6 well-known artists and critics, shall be placed on view.

In reply to a report from the S.W. Anti-Vivisection Society that the Prince of Wales would present to the Queen a petition signed by 300,000 persons for the total abolition of vivisection, Sir F. Knollys says: "It is contrary to his practice to present petitions to the Queen."

The contract for the making of a large quantity of articles, such as coats and socks, as a base, from the Admiralty, has been given to H.M. Prison Commissioners. This has caused much dissatisfaction, as such employment reduces to a great extent the work of oakum picking.

The Secretary of State has caused the discharge of H.M. Convict Prisoner at Dartmoor of Robert Collinson, who was sentenced to penal servitude for life at Leeds Assizes on Dec. 11, 1876, for attempted murder of his master. He has thus served 20 years' imprisonment.

In the Queen's Bench Division Justice Bruce had before him the case of Hart v. Bowler for judgment. This was an action by Mr. L. Hart, scenic artist, for scenerу for "The Key to King Solomon's Chamber." The defence acted by Mr. Bowler was that he only acted as the agent of his wife, Miss A. M. Ruth.—Judgment for plaintiff for £43 10s.

The Nelson play at the Avenue Theatre is by Mrs. Lacey, a step-daughter of Rear-Admiral W. Hornby, son by a daughter of Sir G. Hornby, Admiral of the Fleet, as his son. Rear-Admiral Sir G. Hornby's daughter, Mrs. Fred Egerton, has already given an excellent exhibition of her powers in the biography of her father.

Canon Estyn preached at the morning service in Westminster Abbey this week, and within an hour of his occupation of the Abbey pulpit he was addressing many Members of Parliament from the pulpit of St. Margaret's. The fact that the service at the Abbey began at 10, and at St. Margaret's at 11.30, enabled him to deliver 2 sermons in one morning.

The investigations of the committee which the London Chamber of Commerce appointed to inquire into the practice of receiving secret trade commissions are likely to be extended.

After the preliminary inquiry the committee suggested that it would be desirable to receive further evidence, and this has induced a number of mem-

berial men to offer themselves as witnesses.

A human leg has been found at Repton embossed in the mud in the Trout Meadow.

Chrysanthemums, served as salad, are a favourite article of diet among the Japanese.

Blood travels from the heart through the arteries at the rate of 12 feet in a second.

The tallest and shortest people in Europe, the Norwegian and the Lapps, live side by side.

The value of the gold raised in the Auckland district, New Zealand, last year, amounted to over £220,000.

The "Adelaide Register" estimates the wheat yield of S. Australia at 2,600,000 bushels, or a deficiency of 462,400 bushels.

The Imperial Agricultural Society of Moscow has elected the Duke of York, an honorary member without a dissentient vote.

The Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of the sufferers by the floods in Montreal amounts to only £2000 of the £2,000 required, including the donation of £25 from the Queen and £21 from Mr. Chamberlain.

Mr. McKinley is in bed with a severe cold, but his condition is not serious.

Mr. Goschen, First Lord of the Admiralty, was unanimously elected an Elder Brother of the Garter House, in the vacancy occasioned by the death of Admiral of the Fleet Sir A. Milne.

The Queen has appointed Mr. W. Beaufort, a Secretary of Legation in H.M. Diplomatic Service, to be Com-
mander-general for the Kingdom of Hungary, to reside at Buda-Pesth.

The Bismarck's bed-room contains only 3 pieces of furniture—an enormous wash-hand stand, a small camp bedstead, and a bootjack.

The sudden death of the great actor, Friedrich Mitterwurzer, is as yet unexplained, but it is supposed he was poisoned by a mouth-wash.

The Rhenish crown is made of metal from the cannon that were captured from the Turks by the Roumanians at Pleven, in 1877.

The Italian Chamber will be dissolved on March 5. The elections will probably take place on the 21st and 26th of the same month.

The Chinese, Japanese, Malaya, Siamese, New Zealanders, and North American Indians are all but bearded.

The Post Laureate (Mr. A. Austin) has gone to the South of France on his way to Italy, and will not return to England till the middle of April.

By virtue of his office, the Lord Chief Justice is the principal coroner of England—a right rarely or never exercised.

Mr. W. Harcourt has promised an annual subscription of £5 to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London.

There are about 700,000 houses in London, which on cold days consume 40,000 tons of coal emitting 450 tons of sulphur.

The Dowager Countess of Morley, mother of the Earl of Morley, died this week at Whiteway House, Chudleigh, Devon, at an advanced age.

The Queen has conferred the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Sister Mary Aloystius in recognition of her services in tending the sick and wounded.

Herr Wegener, editor of the "Deutsche Zeitung," was this week sentenced to two months' imprisonment for libelling the German Foreign Office.

The Duke of Connaught and Straheen will, by command of the Queen, add a Levée at St. James's Palace on behalf of her Majesty, on March 15.

The King of Portugal has conferred on Mr. W. R. Hornastle the honour of Commander of the Military Order of Our Lady of the Conception of Villa Viçosa.

The Rev. W. A. Foster, who is pastor of the first Christian Church at St. Louis, has accepted a call to the West London Tabernacle. He will sail on March 6.

A new coinage for this year's Royal Calendar will be made in June. It will be of a handsome character, and include new pennies with a fine design on the lines of the old one.

Catherine Rice, the widow of William Barnett, has died. The coroner's jury were told that the coal he had caused perforation of the guttlet followed by an anæsthetic.

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Alan Arthur, son of the late President Arthur, is about to revisit America, for the first time since his father's death. He used to be called "Prince of Washington."

A Chicago physician says that the human nose is frequently not in the exact centre of the face, and it is a well-known fact that the 2 sides of the face are rarely symmetrical.

In the Oriental department of the British Museum a tablet has been deciphered as containing an offer of marriage by a Pharaoh to a daughter of the King of Babylon about 1550 B.C.

The C.S. Commissioners of Sewers have settled the claims of the owners of Nos. 100 and 101 Fleet-st., which are to be pulled down to carry on the widening of that thoroughfare.

Frank M'Ghee, clerk of works at the new Railway Hotel, Newcastle, on Dec. 11, 1896, was killed at Liverpool, charged with defrauding the company of £2,000. Accused, for whose arrest a warrant was issued some days ago, was taken at his residence.

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The foundation-stone of a new synagogue for S. Hackney, to be erected in Devonshire-st, Mare-st., at a cost of £7,300, was laid by the Hon. W. Rothschild, in the presence of a large audience. The Chief Rabbi officiated.

The Hearts of Oak executive cannot yet decide to re-model the delicate board. The committee's proposal to that effect did not receive the necessary three-fourths majority, and so the question is again shelved.

Besides the deceptive painting of a fiddle at Chatsworth there is in the garden a deceptive tree, which often a visitor stands under, only to find himself suddenly drenched with water. The cleverly-designed tree is a water fountain.

Early in the morning a fire broke out in a bed-room at the N. Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent. The room was occupied by Miss Simister, manageress of the station refreshment rooms. She was terribly burnt, and died a few hours later.

At Axminster, an Army pensioner named House and his wife were summoned for neglecting their 4 young children. The inspector stated that the children were black with dirt, and that the rooms and bedding were in a most filthy condition, being infested with vermin. They were each sentenced to one month's hard labour, the children being sent to the workhouse.

The Home Secretary has received a memorial stated to be the largest ever sent from London since the time of the Chartists, praying him not to register the British Institute of Preventive Medicine near the Chelsea Embankment for experiments or inoculations on living animals, and containing 183,706 signatures. The task of getting up this memorial was undertaken by a group of ladies and gentlemen calling themselves "The Protest Committee."

"CLARENCE WORLD-FAMOUS BLOOD MIXTURE" is a guaranteed cure for all Blood and Skin Diseases. It is the most sought blood cleanser ever discovered, and will free the system from all impurities from whatever cause arising. You may buy it at 1s. 6d. per bottle. Testimonials. Send every where at 1s. 6d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

dog with a separate tombstone and inscription.

The number of Evangelical Free Church Councils is now 370, an increase of 161 in 11 months.

A Levee will be held by the Duke of York, on behalf of the Queen, at St. James's Palace, on March 20.

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The winner of the Dove Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music was Edwin S. Dyke, a native of Plymouth. The examiners commended Margaret S. Holloway.

A farm servant, named John Francis, was found dead in the stables of Bog Farm, Kilwinning, where he had been working. Francis was about 59 years of age.

The Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of the sufferers by the floods in Montreal amounts to only £200 of the £2,000 required, including the donation of £25 from the Queen and £21 from Mr. Chamberlain.

There is a growing and general dissatisfaction that the Committee of Inquiry will exonerate the British South Africa Company from any complicity in the Jameson raid. It is considered that the evidence given so frankly by Mr. Rhodes entirely clears his co-directors from whatever degree of responsibility, grave or light, may attach to him personally.

A telegram from the Klerkedorp Proprietary Co. states that the reef has been struck in the bore hole, that it is 3 feet wide, and that the ore assays 16.5dwt. to the ton. There is no longer any question that the reef underlies the company's property, and can be worked at a profit. The Bufelsdorp Consolidated Co. claim to have cut the Bufelsdorp reef at 78ft., showing a value of 10s. per ton for 3 feet.

Better still is the news to hand from the West Roodeport Deep. The south reef is reported to have been struck at a depth of 800 feet, and so rich is the ore that the samples crushed average well over £20. per ton.

The bargain-hunter, who can plunk down the dollars now has an opportunity of buying on the cheap. Not to mention other goods at alarming sacrifice prices, he cannot go wrong by buying Bonanzas, Henry Noureas, and Shebas to a moderate extent.

Whatever may be the outcome of the political complications in Eastern Europe, it is certain that no damage can accrue to the great Rand industry.

I am glad to see that a determined effort is being organized to infuse more vitality into the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders. The Council has got into a groove of lethargy, and does little more than endorse whatever proposals reach it from defaulting States. It is, apparently, no longer safe to shove these wretched toads under the barrow.

"IN THE SWIM."

BY A CITY SHARE.

Naturally and necessarily, the markets have been considerably agitated by the political complications in Eastern Europe. But, on the whole, they have displayed much more robustness than was to be expected in presence of such threatening circumstances. At every set back, especially in gilt-edged goods and home rails, buyers have come forward and taken stocks of the market. This augurs well for future stability, until the Cretan botheration is finally done with.

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A COOK'S SECRET MARRIAGE. The story of a secret marriage and suicide was told at the inquest on Mande Mary Brown, 25, cook, who died at St. George's Hospital. Alfred Brown, porter at the G.P.O., and residing at Queen-st., Commercial-rd., E., stated that deceased was his late wife. They were married about 6 months ago, but the fact was not made known to their friends.—Coroner: That is strange. What were your reasons for keeping the matter secret?—Witness: I am a reserve man, and my wife was afraid that I should be called out and she would lose me. It was her wish that we should be married and keep it a secret.—Anchored, housemaid at West Cromwell-rd., said that on the morning of the 9th inst. deceased flung herself from a back window into the yard. On the floor she picked up a letter, which ran:—

I hope you will forgive me for what I am about to do. I am tired of my life, for it seems that I am always making people miserable. Do not blame me for that. It is far too good for me. It makes me ill to think of all that I have to go through. It would drive me mad. Whatever you do mind not blame me, for he has been very good and kind to me.—From your unhappy sister, Maud. The letter was addressed to one of deceased's brothers. Witness added that before she was taken to the hospital the deceased repeatedly said, "Let me die. I don't want to live." The house-surgeon said deceased had fallen a distance of 20 ft.—Verdict, suicide during temporary insanity.

A BRUTAL MOTHER.

A STORY OF CRUELTY TO A CHILD. At Marybone, a cruel case was brought before Mr. Bennett, at the instance of the N.S.P.C.C., in which a woman named Lilian Kilmer, 36, of Hampden-st., Harrow-rd., was charged with cruelty to her little boy, aged 10.—Mr. Phillips prosecuted.—Prisoner has 2 children who are being brought up by their grandmother, who is 73. Prisoner herself acts as caretaker at a private school, and visits the home of her mother every Friday night. On the night of the 12th she brought the boy home and upbraided him for not going to school that day, and when the boy's clothes had been removed she beat him UNmercifully.

With a cane about the back, neck, and face. The lodgers were so shocked at her cruelty, and terrified by the shrieks of the child, that they locked themselves in their room. She beat him for a quarter of an hour. Then she ordered him to wash, and as he did not move quickly enough, she threw cold water over him, and made him lie down on the wet floor. She filled a bowl and again threw water over him. Subsequently they saw the little fellow, and found his back, neck, and face

COVERED WITH WOUNDS.

and his eye blackened. The lodgers averred that prisoner was in the habit of beating the boy. The police were communicated with, and P.C. Jarvis went to the house, and found the boy as the lodgers had described.—Dr. Robinson, divisional surgeon, said he examined the lad, and found 28 scars on his back, besides injuries about his eyes. Witness had been a surgeon in H.M. Navy, and the condition of this child's back in parts was quite as bad as he had seen a sailor's who had received the lashes of a cat-o'-nine-tails. (Sensation.) The boy's arms were also

SWOLLEN AND CUT.

The defence of prisoner was that when she scolded the boy he used a disagreeing expression to her, and she lost control of her temper.—P.C. Jarvis, who had made inquiries about prisoner, informed the magistrate that he knew nothing about the father of the children. Prisoner gave birth to a child in 1895. She had been charged with the wilful murder of one of her children, and was discharged because of the insufficiency of the evidence.

Mr. Bennett said he had seen the child's back, which was almost fayed. Prisoner seemed to have pursued a course of cruelty.—3 months' hard labour.

THE CHILDREN CHARGED.

James Kilmer, 10, and Rose Kilmer, 8, children of Lilian Kilmer, were charged with being found guilty. An Industrial Schools' officer told the magistrate that since the hearing of the charge against the mother he had had an interview with the grandmother. She informed him that both the children now before the court were illegitimate.—Magistrate: She averred yesterday that her daughter's husband died 7 years ago.—Officer: She told me that her daughter was a very cruel and hardened woman. Magistrate: She told me she had lived; no other could have been kinder.

Officer: The grandmother also said that her daughter would most surely kill the children if they were returned to her. Magistrate: Marvelous! These statements are diametrically opposed to what she said yesterday. Such a transition is extraordinary. Other evidence having been given, the magistrate remanded the children to the workhouse, with a view to sending them to a school.

ANOTHER ELOPING PRINCESS.

The judge of the Brussels Divorce Court has fixed March 4 for hearing the divorce suit brought by Charles Jean-Baptiste Josselin against Gabrielle-Marie-Antoinette Lejeune, the lady being no other than the divorced first wife of Prince Caraman-Chinny, while petitioner is the servant who whom the then princess eloped 10 years ago. In the pleadings, which show that the parties went to rest after their marriage in a superb villa on the borders of the Lake of Como, petitioner alleged that his wife left him early in 1890 without giving her address; that she travelled for 2 years with her secretary, from whose letters alone he heard of whereabouts; that, on her return at the end of 3 years, she told her husband, who then remained her travelling, visiting in turn Spain, France, and Algeria, and finally had the villa pulled down in which her husband resided near Turin. The judge, on examining the papers in connection with the case, made an order for the production of witnesses to prove the facts alleged. Respondent, who, through her counsel, has all along refused to resume cohabitation, will be defended by Maitre Van Hoore.

The Queen has sent £10 towards the projects of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption at Ventnor.

As a result of the prison warders' petition against the compulsory enforcement of 3 consecutive months' night duty in turn, the commissioners have notified that governors may, at their discretion, reduce the period for such duty to one month.

A TERRIBLE ASSAULT.

At Bow-st., Richard Collins was charged, before Mr. Loachington, with assaulting John Curley, with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, and with assaulting the police.—P.C.'s 260 E. and 12 E. were called to St. Clare Market, and in the doorway met prosecutor, John Curley, from whose head blood was freely flowing. They accompanied him to a room on the second floor, where they found prisoner and a woman. Prisoner was only half-dressed. Prosecutor stated that prisoner attacked him with some chancery whilst he was asleep, and pointed to a broken jug, &c., stained with blood. Prisoner said, "You should not attempt to take liberties with a woman." Prosecutor said to the woman, "Have I ever attempted to take liberties with you?" and she replied, "No." P.C. 42 E. then took prosecutor to King's College Hospital. There were many

CUTS ON HIS HEAD.

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ACT OF GOD.

Both eyes were cut and swollen, and the house-surgeon found it necessary to put in no fewer than 14 stitches. In the meantime there was a singular scene in the bed-room in which the alleged assault had taken place. As soon as prosecutor had been led away P.C. 260 E told prisoner he would have to go to Bow-st. He replied with an oath that he would do nothing of the kind, and at the same time assaulted the officer. He tried to throw the constable on the bed, but the latter fell upon him, and drawing his truncheon threatened to use it. Prisoner said, "If you don't strike me with that I will go quietly to the station." He then dressed himself and accompanied the officer to Bow-st. When confronted with prosecutor prisoner said, "It serves you right. I have owed you that for years." Prosecutor was afterwards taken to Bear Yard Infirmary, and it was now stated that his injuries were so serious that he would have to remain there for at least a fortnight.—Remanded.

IN SEARCH OF A WIFE.

The following letter has been addressed to one of the lady guardians at Hackney:—

ROYAL MARINES.

SIR, In this popular Corps affords many opportunities of distinction and of seeing the world comfortably, with plenty of money to spend.—Apply, Adm. & Admiralty Dept., Bow-st., Strand.

OFFICIAL SITUATIONS.

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